



*A member of the 32nd Civil Support Team monitors for contamination during a training exercise.*

## Maryland National Guard Unit “Certified” to Support the Nation

Story and photos by Warrant Officer Will Fearington, MDNG Public Affairs

The 32nd Civil Support Team (CST), Maryland National Guard, located at Fort Meade, Md., recently became federally certified to respond to domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and [high yield] explosives (CBRNE) within the state or anywhere in the United States, if needed.

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor



Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor



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**Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill**  
Adjutant General

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT:

Winter is here and so far it has been relatively mild compared to seasons past. This remains a very busy time for the Department both here at home and abroad as we continue to perform our dual high tempo federal and state missions unabated.

The most significant change involves our leadership at the state level. Our new Commander in Chief, the Honorable Martin O'Malley was elected Maryland's 61st Governor in the General Election last November and took the oath of office at the State Capitol in Annapolis on January 17, 2007. Members of all four pillars of the Maryland Military Department were involved in all aspects of the planning, coordination and execution of Inauguration Day events. The folks from our Department provided VIP escorts, did the planning, coordinated the communications, assisted with invitations, managed parking in the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium parking lot, advised the Governor's Transition Team on matters of protocol, managed more than 2,000 Inaugural Parade participants, marched in the parade, provided announcers, fed the state employees who participated and took active roles in the swearing in of the Governor and Lt. Governor. I am extremely proud of all of the efforts and accomplishments made by the members of this Department in making the occasion a memorable success.

On January 14, we welcomed home the 135th Airlift Group back from *Operations Iraqi Freedom* and *Enduring Freedom*. Operating in two-month rotations during a two-year commitment, the unit participated in more than 500 continuous days of combat operations. They flew their C-130J aircraft on more than 2,700 sorties, racked up more than 4,800 flight hours, hauled more than 5,300 short tons of cargo, and transported more than 33,500 passengers. These outstanding men and women represent Marylanders at their best. By their courage, their sacrifice, and their dedication, they continue to make this a better world for each and every one of us.

We also celebrate the return of B Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group and the Special Operations Detachment-Joint Forces from *Operation Enduring Freedom*. Many of these Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers are returning from their second tour in Afghanistan. They are dedicated professionals who have taken the fight to the enemy in the Global War on Terrorism. We are all exceptionally proud of them and glad to have them home.

We are in the middle of winter and it is vital to remember that preparedness for severe weather in winter is just as important as any other season. A severe winter storm can choke commerce, trap citizens in their homes for days and disrupt the ability of governments at all levels to provide services. We have information on winter preparedness in this issue, which will be helpful to all members of the Department.

The holidays are over and a new year is before us with all of its promise. As we move further into these turbulent times, I ask that you keep our deployed Soldiers and Airmen in your thoughts and prayers. We still have a lot of work to be done and we will continue to move forward. Take care of yourselves and your families. Godspeed.

Respectfully,

Bruce F. Tuxill  
Major General, MDANG  
The Adjutant General

# CSM Haller: He volunteered to fight for freedom in Iraq

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Maryland Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller died in Iraq on Jan. 20.

Haller, 49, of Davidsonville, Md., was among 10 National Guard and two active Army Soldiers killed in the crash of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter near Al Jadidah, northeast of Baghdad.

The commandant of the noncommissioned officer academy at the 70th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, at Camp Fretterd, Reisterstown, Md., Haller served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He had more than 25 years of military service, 24 of them in the Maryland National Guard.

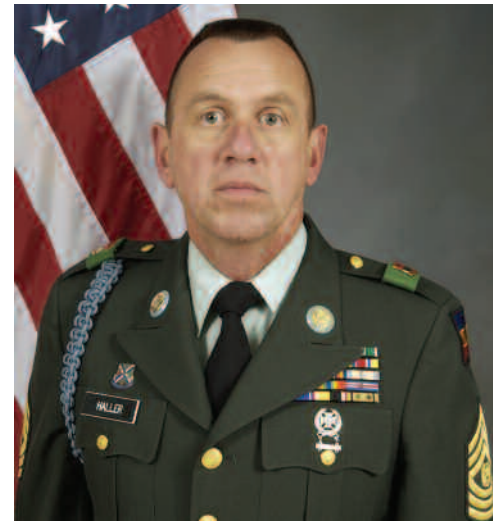
"It is with an extremely heavy heart that I share the news of the death of one of Maryland's finest," Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said in an official statement. "This tragedy underscores the debt of gratitude we owe our men and women in uniform and in particular, their families."

He was accorded full military honors at his funeral at Sailwinds Park in Cambridge, Md., on Jan. 31.

"Words cannot adequately express the sadness that we in the Maryland National Guard family feel today," said Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, the state's adjutant general. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the sergeant major's family in their time of grief."

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of these outstanding National Guard Soldiers and warriors," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "I cherish their service, honor their sacrifice and mourn with their families."

Haller's survivors include his son, Sgt. Daniel Haller, who is also a veteran of both Afghanistan and Iraq, and daughters Morgan Haller and Alex Haller, both of Cambridge, Md. His ex-wife and the mother of his three children is Sandy Hockman, of Cambridge, Md. His mother,



*Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller*

sister and brothers also survive him.

Haller graduated from Cambridge Senior High School in 1975 and held degrees in history and political science from Fairmont State College in West Virginia. An infantryman, he enlisted in the Virginia Army National Guard in 1981.

- Master Sgt. Bob Haskell contributed to this report.

## Maryland National Guard Unit "Certified" to Support the Nation

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*The situation is monitored from the 32nd CST's mobile command post during a simulated disaster.*

"Our unit was created in July 2004 and we have been working towards this moment ever since," said Maj. George Spence, deputy commander of the 32nd CST. The 22 full-time National Guard members had to go through rigorous training exercises such as conducting chemical, biological and radiological survey operations to detect and identify any potential dangerous agents. They were

tasked to decontaminate personnel and equipment and also performed medical operations to provide first aid to any injured or infected personnel, if needed. All of this training was done under real life conditions at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Some of their other tasks included proper diagnosis of CBRNE and how to properly handle the situation once the problem had been found. Overall, they completed more than 600 hours of training in addition to the training they received for the various military occupational specialties held by the team.

"You actually don't know what you are dealing with when you show up on the scene because it could be anything," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bolt, one of the nuclear biological chemical team chiefs. "This accreditation proves that we can do the job and anyone can check our credentials."

Bolt, along with his fellow team members, were able to successfully complete a live scenario certification exercise at the Port of Baltimore that was overseen by the Department of Defense. The

exercise took almost 26 hours to complete. "It was very intense training that definitely is not regular work, period," said Bolt.

"It was definitely challenging," said Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Mingo, communications team chief, referring to the instruction he received. "Especially the hazardous material training since it was new to me but not something that I could not overcome. We try and stay sharp and continue to get better."

The career communications Soldier gained additional skills with the new equipment the unit has acquired, he said.

The 32nd CST is responsible for the State of Maryland and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region III, which includes Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia but can be called to any part of the United States. There are currently 55 teams active for all 54 states and territories. California and Florida both will be gaining an additional civil support team in the future.



# The Indian Ambassadors

By Capt. Maren P. Barney, 175th Wing Public Affairs

Fifteen Maryland National Guard members and one C-130J flew around the world on a mission to India in June. Members of the 175th Wing, accompanied by Maryland's assistant adjutant general for air, spent five days interacting with their Indian counterparts.

The mission's purpose was two-fold: to introduce the Indian Air Force (IAF) to the U.S.-made C-130J and support U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense efforts to build upon and enhance military relations between the United States and India.

"We were honored that the International Affairs Division under the Secretary of the Air Force chose the most experienced and knowledgeable C-130J unit in the Air Force to represent them in India," said Brig. Gen. Charles Morgan III, assistant adjutant general for air. "I was very proud of our Maryland contingent in India, and I thought that each person was a great ambassador, representing both the United States of America and the State of Maryland."

Their agenda included static displays, local demonstration flights and cargo airdrops.

"We had a very aggressive schedule," said mission commander Lt. Col. Michael C. Lunt, 135th Airlift Squadron commander. "The Indian Air Force personnel we met with were very professional and asked detailed questions that demonstrated they were prepared for our visit."

Of particular interest to the IAF is the C-130J's high-altitude, high-temperature capability. Passengers on a demonstration flight to northern India's Leh Air Force Station, an airfield that sits at an altitude of 10,000 feet, experienced the performance of the C-130J at high altitude as they flew over the Himalayas.

"The aircraft performed impeccably," said 135th Maintenance Operations

Flight Commander Maj. Mark W. Ruane. "The IAF was extremely interested in seeing first-hand how the C-130J would perform in that environment. I think its performance really impressed the IAF members that flew with us."

tin, which makes it the first major aircraft purchase by the IAF of an American aircraft in decades, said Morgan.

"We have offered to have the 135th Airlift Maintenance Squadron be a sister squadron with the C-130J squadron in



*Staff Sgt. Ed Slavin demonstrates how to rig seats as members of the Indian Air force tour a Maryland C-130J at Leh Air Force Station in northern India. Photo by Maj. Mark Ruane, MDANG*

Two full days were dedicated to conducting static tours of the aircraft. Opening the aircraft to tours first thing in the morning, a seemingly endless stream of Indian Air Force personnel would tour the aircraft while the temperatures outside gradually climbed to 110 degrees. Guests expressed interest in C-130J operational capabilities, maintenance issues and features.

"Loadmasters, maintainers and pilots all worked together to reconfigure the aircraft when needed," said Ruane. "Everyone was a tour guide at some point."

The IAF inventory currently includes only Russian-made aircraft. The IAF announced last month that they are purchasing six C-130Js from Lockheed Mar-

India, but that will be determined later," said Morgan. "We also have advised them of the advantages of being in the Joint Maintenance Users Group, which includes the Brits, Aussies, Italians and Danes. We hope they will join us there."

"We hope that in some small way we were instrumental in that initial aircraft order," said Lunt. "But more importantly, we hope we were able to help start what could be a long-term military relationship with the great IAF people we met."

The C-130's trip literally spanned the globe over a space of 16 days and included stops in Lajes, Greece, Qatar, Thailand, Okinawa, Tinian Island, Kwajalein and Hawaii.

# Aviation Activation

Story and photo by Pfc. John P. Higgins, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, MDARNG

**A**BERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.—“Nine eleven got us thinking: bring everything together with the dedicated mission,” said Lt. Col. Shannon Brown of the 1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Security and Support Regiment in her speech given at the unit’s activation ceremony in October.

Everything has been brought together in this new kind of unit in several senses. After it’s reactivation in 2001, the mission of the 1-224th has been changed to augment homeland security, including local police and emergency response units, said Maj. Michael Krause, the battalion executive officer.

That augmentation takes the form of not only 419 personnel from several states, some as far away as Alaska, but also in terms of more helicopters specifically modified for the mission, said Brown. Those resources also are spread between eight states from Maine to Virginia, making the unit’s coverage one of the largest in the nation, when compared to other unit’s spread between three or four states.

One of those modifications is an infrared camera capable of both recording and transmitting images in real time, said Capt. Kirk E. Regina, commander of A Company of the 1-224th.

All these changes and additions come together in a unit like nothing ever seen in the Guard before, a point that Battalion Intelligence Officer Capt.



*1st Battalion, 224th Aviation Security and Support Regiment Command Sgt. Maj. David Jenkins unfurls the battalion colors during the unit’s activation ceremony while the color bearer, Spc. Landraous Pabron, looks on.*

Andrei Illias emphasized. “I like being the first to do anything and this is a first for the Army. It’s a little bit ground breaking I think,” said Illias.

Ground breaking not only refers to the method but also the equipment the unit will be using, including many helicopters that will be outfitted not only with cameras, but with communications equipment that allows for coordination

with multiple emergency personnel in any given situation, said Brown.

“They are ready, they are here and they are ready to support,” said Brown as she concluded her speech. Given all the factors that have come together for the 1-224th to happen, it’s probably safe to assume that she is right.

## Chief of the National Guard Bureau visits Maryland Troops in Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts, 41st Brigade Combat Team

**T**he Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, visited troops in Afghanistan during his latest trip overseas. Blum and his new command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. David Ray Hudson, met with many Soldiers in Kandahar, who appreciated a visit from the command group this past fall.

“You’re all doing exceptional work providing support to the warfight in an austere environment,” said Blum.

The next day Blum traveled to Jalalabad where Embedded Training Teams (ETT) provide mentorship and assistance

to the Afghan National Army (ANA). At this stop Blum met his son, Capt. Mark Blum, a mentor with the 201st Regional Command Assistance Group. Capt. Blum postponed his promotion five months so his proud father could pin the rank of major on his son in a combat zone.

Maj. Gen. Munir Mangal, commander of the ANA’s 201st Corps, briefed Lt. Gen. Blum on the current warfight situation and the status of his forces.

Lt. Gen. Blum also visited Camp Phoenix in Kabul where Task Force Phoenix Commander Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt and Command Sgt. Maj. Brunk Con-



*Capt. Mark Blum was visited by his father Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, while serving in Afghanistan.*

ley, hosted face-to-face briefings with key leaders. Hudson and Conley discussed enlisted Soldiers’ issues and concerns. Lt. Gen. Blum presented his command coin to service members exhibiting excellence in their efforts to train and mentor the ANA. He seemed truly pleased with the progress in Afghanistan. Blum continued visiting National Guard Soldiers at the frontlines of the Global War On Terrorism during the remainder of his trip.



# Freestate ChalleNGe Cadets Honored by Baltimore Ravens

By Rebecca Blue, Freestate ChalleNGe Academy

It was a gorgeous, warm and sunny day. The cadets at Freestate were looking forward to traveling off Aberdeen Proving Ground for what would surely be an exciting day of football.

On Sept. 17, 2006 the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy Cadets of Class #27 attended the Baltimore Raven's game as special Honor Row recipients. In order to be selected for this privilege, an application had to be completed and submitted stating how the organization had contributed to their community. During the past year, cadets have contributed 9,976 hours of community service and this number continues to grow each day. In addition to the cadets, staff members and mentors have contributed numerous hours assisting the cadets with community service and training.

The cadets have provided community service at such events as the Baltimore Water Festival, National Flag Day at Ft. McHenry, So Others Might Eat, Aberdeen Proving Ground beautification, the Aberdeen Iron Bird Stadium haunted house, supported the NAACP Relief Drive benefiting Katrina victims and Annie's Playground. Annie's Playground was built in memory of a 6-year-old girl that was killed by a drunk driver. The Freestate Cadets, along with many other community members, spent several days constructing this state of the art playground.

Along with the community service that the cadets provide while at Freestate, they also are required to perform at least one service project with their mentor while in residency. They are encouraged to return to their communities and become role models for their families and friends.

After arriving at M&T Bank Stadium, the cadets were treated to a few freebies, including t-shirts, D-Fence posters, and Baltimore Ravens bracelets. The best part of the day happened next. The cadets were taken down onto the field before the game started. While on the field, they were able to take pictures, watch the professional football players' warm-up, and just stare up into the bleachers realizing just how awesome it was to be standing where they were. Cadet Bajon Hummons said that this was



*Freestate ChalleNGe cadets render honors during the National Anthem prior to the beginning of the Ravens game. Photo by Charles Rooks.*

a rewarding experience for him because, "it was kind of early in the program and the staff allowed us to participate in something fun to help release some of our stress."

For most of the cadets, this was the first time they were able to experience an NFL game in person. Just by looking at their faces, you could see that it was a day that wouldn't soon be forgotten.

"I had a good time because it was my first time being at a live football game and as I looked at the field it was like, this is way better than watching a game on television," said Cadet Richard Archie.

It seemed as though, Baltimore Raven's fan or not, the excitement was all the same. The game started promptly at 1 p.m. and at around 3 p.m., during the start of the third quarter, the camera zoomed in on the Freestate cadets and their picture was put on the Jumbotron along with a big Baltimore Raven's thank you.

At the end, the Ravens were able to pull off a 28-6 victory over the Oakland Raiders which just put the topping on the cake for the day. Most of the cadets looked exhausted, but they still had the smile of pride written across their faces. This was something entirely new to some of the cadets, not just going to an NFL game, but being recognized and rewarded for doing something positive with their lives.

"It was a rewarding experience for me because all of the Raven fans showed us some love when we were at the game," said Cadet Mauricio Escobar.

Hopefully, the feeling that the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy cadets obtain from helping others will carry on in their lives once they have left the program. As seen in the past and surely the future, the cadets will have a tremendous positive impact on their communities, families, and friends once returning home.

# Charity Campaigns Prove Successful!

By 2nd Lt. Danielle M. McGriff, MDARNG

The Combined Federal Campaign and Maryland Charity Campaign began in October 2006 and marked the second time that state employees and federal employees joined forces during the annual fund drives.



*Mary Warren and Chief Warrant Officer Sean Branch, 2006 Combined Federal Campaign agency coordinators for the Military Department; and Dave Glenn, 2006 Maryland Charity Campaign manager for the Military Department.*

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which was established in 1961, is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations, and according to the 2006 CFC Contributors Guide, the mission of the CFC is to support and to promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

The Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is administered by the Maryland Secretary of State for the governor and gives state employees and state retirees the opportunity to give to various charitable organizations.

"I think the program has served many people in need and those in need of support services from our various supporting organizations," said Dave Glenn, professional development and educational trainer and the manager of the MCC for the Military Department.

Organizations involved with the campaigns include Adopt A Block, Inc., American Hospice Foundation, American Red Cross, The Arc of Maryland and many more. In all there were more than 834 participating organizations.

Donating to either the CFC or the MCC provides meals to the hungry, services to the disabled, funds to research disease and technology to clean the environment. The motto for the MCC was "2006 Giving from the heart.... Now more than ever!!!"

Maryland Military state employees finished the 2006 campaign with a total of \$10,551 raised and Federal employees with the department raised more than \$103,286.

## Eagle Scouts get a look at Maryland Air Guard

By Staff Sgt., David Speicher, 175th Wing Public Affairs

Baltimore, Oct. 14 –Twenty-five Eagle Scouts and their parents joined Brig. Gen. Charles Morgan III, assistant adjutant general for air, Maryland National Guard, for a tour of Warfield Air National Guard Base.

Morgan personally led the group and talked to them about tuition assistance programs available for members in the Maryland National Guard. Morgan, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, also pointed out that each year the Air Reserve components, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, are allocated 85 appointments for the Air Force Academy. The Army Reserve components, which include the Army National Guard, offer an identical plan with West Point.

"Hopefully we explained the tuition assistance plan for the Eagle Scouts, because Eagle Scouts make great officers and non-commissioned officers. They make great Soldiers and Airmen," said Morgan. "We are trying to tell them what the Air National Guard has to offer. We try to help them get into the service academies."

Following a welcome to the base and

safety briefing, Master Sgt. James White, a member of the 175th Security Forces Squadron, discussed a recent six-month deployment to Iraq, and introduced the visitors to the equipment used by Air Force security forces.

Senior Airman Julia Garrison, from the 104th Fighter Squadron life support section demonstrated the flight equipment pilots wear. Chris Meyer, an Eagle Scout from Troop 602 in Laurel, Md., volunteered to don the gear, which included an anti-g-suit, survival harness, and helmet. Garrison described how the equipment functioned and how a parachute would automatically deploy if the pilot ejected from the aircraft.

The group toured a C-130J and an A-10 on static display before boarding a bus to the runway for a close-up view of two A-10s in the overhead landing pattern.

The last stop was the fire station, where the scouts were introduced to some of the specialized fire trucks the Guard operates at the airbase.

"Becoming an Eagle Scout developed my leadership skills," said Chief Master Sgt. Mark Maselli, command chief master



*Senior Airman Julia Garrison, left, 104th Fighter Squadron life support specialist, Maryland Air National Guard, helps Chris Meyer, an Eagle Scout from Troop 602 in Laurel, Md., don a survival vest.*

sergeant of the Maryland Air National Guard. "Growing up as an Eagle Scout there was a military awareness."

Maselli said that while working on his good citizenship badge, he felt a calling for military service. He said that his scouting experience contributed to his later success in the armed forces.

After the tour, Meyer said, "I have always wanted to join. This gives me a better idea of what it is like."



# Military Department Lends Support To Inauguration

The Maryland Military Department has historically been the primary provider of support to the gubernatorial inauguration. The Military Department proudly continued this tradition with Governor Martin O'Malley's inauguration which took place on Jan. 17.

All four pillars of the Department – the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Defense Force and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency – made contributions to the inauguration. The pillars combined efforts to provide logistical, operational and communication support as well as entertainment coordination for the inauguration. The Department coordinated the printing, addressing and mailing of more than 30,000 invitations; assembled 5,000 programs and 5,000 inaugural addresses prior to the inauguration. The MilDep also provided VIP escorts, marching units, traffic and parking management and an aircraft flyover on inauguration day.

In addition to providing support as a department the Military Department tasked two of its employees, Vic Macias, Military Department legislative liaison, and Ron Leard, special assistant to the adjutant general, to assist with overall coordination for the inauguration.

"Ron and I, as a team, were coordinating everyone from throughout the State government on behalf of the inauguration committee," said Macias.

This included developing the inauguration day agenda and planning the day's events.

In the end the hard work contributed by employees of the department paid off and this was made evident by the successful completion of the inauguration day ceremonies.



*Members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Annapolis, march in the inauguration parade. These Soldiers had recently returned from a deployment to the Southwest Border in support of Operation Jump Start.*



*Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ron Leard, special assistant to the adjutant general (left), and Col. (Md.) Bruno Conticello, Maryland Defense Force deputy commander, discuss plans on inauguration day.*



*The Maryland National Guard Honor Guard leads the inauguration parade.*





*Col. (P) Grant Hayden, assistant adjutant general for army; Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill, adjutant general for Maryland; Gov. Martin O'Malley, Col. Thomas E. Hutchins, secretary of State Police and Brig. Gen. (Md.) Courtney B. Wilson, Maryland Defense Force commanding general, take time out during ceremonies for a group photo. Photo courtesy of Governor's Office.*



*The Maryland Army National Guard's 229th Army Band provided music for the day's events.*



*Warrant Officer Lidamar Taylor, a food service technician with the Maryland Army National Guard's Department of Logistics, ensures that there is enough food on hand to feed all of the department employees working in support of the inauguration.*



# Flag Rescue Project Preserving History

By 2nd Lt. Danielle M. McGriff, MDARNG, photos by Rick Roth MDNG Public Affairs

Light falls once again on witnesses of past battles that have lain hidden in the dark for many years.

1st Lt. Wayde Minami, a Maryland National Guard historian, described the moment he discovered the flag as being “like an antique road show moment.” He found the 1861 silk issue Army of Northern Virginia battle flag in July 2005, in a footlocker at the Pikesville Military Reservation.

The size of the flag indicates that it may be a cavalry regimental color. The only other surviving example of such a flag is in collection of the Chicago Historical Society, according to Minami.

Minami said that the 1861 battle flag is a part of the irreplaceable heritage of the United States military. The Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Military Historical Society have been working diligently to restore and conserve such objects for future military personnel to reflect upon.

“It was in remarkable condition, considering its age, and with the help of



*1st Lt. Wayde Minami displays the 1861 silk issue Army of Northern Virginia battle flag that was discovered in a foot locker at the now defunct museum at the Pikesville Military Reservation.*



*Flags, guidons and unit colors, like these in storage at the Fifth Regiment Armory, are being conserved with help from the Maryland Military Historical Society's Flag Rescue Project.*

the Historical Society, we should be able to prevent future deterioration,” said Minami.

The conservation effort is part of the Maryland Military Historical Society's Flag Rescue Project, which is dedicated to preserving historical flags and guidons housed in the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. The Society supplies money and volunteers to help restore and conserve the flags. In the case of the 1861 Army of Northern Virginia battle flag, the Society has raised \$5,000, which should cover the cost of professional conservation.

The Fifth Regiment Armory has approximately 30 historical flags in need of conservation, many of which were damaged in the 1933 Fifth Regiment Armory fire.

“In 2001, the estimated cost to preserve and restore these flags was

about \$430,000,” said Minami. He said the cost has undoubtedly gone up since then.

“The Military Historical Society has done incredible work helping us save these flags, but there's still a long way to go, and we're getting more flags all the time,” Minami said.

A number of flags were transferred from the Pikesville Military Museum in 2005. In addition, as units deactivate, they must turn in their colors and guidons. With transformation underway within the Maryland Army National Guard, more flags arrive on a regular basis.

In the case of National Guard units, the Army will normally allow the flags to remain within the state, but federal law prohibits transfer to private organizations or individuals. In Maryland, unit flags that are retained are kept at the Fifth Regiment Armory, while those that are not are shipped to Fort McNair for permanent storage, according to Minami.

As a result of Army transformation there will be a significant number of flags returning to the Fifth Regiment Armory that will need to be preserved for future generations, Minami said.



# ESGR Supports Service Members

By 1st Lt. Wayde Minami, MDNG Public Affairs

The young woman was working at a printing company in Baltimore Co. when she told her boss she was thinking about joining the Maryland Air National Guard. She was told that if she enlisted, she would be fired. She decided to enlist anyway, and true to his word, her boss fired her.

The new Airman took her case to Lt. Col. William E. "Butch" Hensel, coordinator for the Maryland Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Hensel said the ESGR tried to mediate the problem, and when that failed it was turned over to the Department of Justice. In the end, the Airman's former employer was required to pay her \$5,000 in back pay, an additional \$5,000 fine, and was barred from receiving government contracts worth an estimated \$200,000 for two years.

The intransigence of the employer in the case was unusual, according to Hensel.

"Our ombudsmen in Maryland solve 98 percent of the cases through the informal mediation process," he said. "On average, two cases a year go to the Department of Labor, and they are usually able to solve them at that level, and occasionally we have a case that goes to the Department of Justice and results in litigation."

According to Hensel, ESGR handled more than 100 cases last year in Maryland.

"Maryland's home to 30,000 reservists across all seven reserve components, so case load's not that high," Hensel said. "But each one's very important because that person has lost their job or could be losing a potential job."

The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act prohibits employment discrimination against members of the military, including those considering joining.

But not every employer the ESGR deals with is a problem case.

"Our mission is to gain and maintain employer support," Hensel said. "We also provide free education to the employers and Guard members on the USERRA law, and if necessary we provide free mediation between a Guard member and their employer."

According to Hensel, Maryland's



*Lt. Col. William E. "Butch" Hensel, coordinator for the Maryland Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve*

ESGR committee has provided training and education to more than 100 employers in the state. In addition, ESGR has had contact with an additional 400 employers through its employer recognition programs. One of the highest levels of acknowledgement an employer can achieve is recognition as a "Five-Star Employer." Recipients are nominated by individual Guard members.

"We have about more than 110 'Five-Star Employers' right now, from very small companies to the largest companies," Hensel said.

Although ESGR has gained a considerably higher profile since the war began in 2001, ESGR has actually been around for over 30 years.

According to the ESGR website, <http://www.esgr.org>, when the military conscription ended in the 1970s, "defense planners foresaw a potential problem with the nation's Reserve service members and their civilian employers. Long accustomed to National Guard and Reserve membership as an alterna-

tive to compulsory active duty service, it was believed that employers might question the necessity of service in a purely voluntary military system. The planners concluded that some employers might not be supportive of their workers serving voluntarily in uniform."

As a result, the Department of Defense chartered the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in 1972. Its goal was to educate employers as to the role and importance of the reserve components in national defense.

It originally consisted of a panel of select volunteers representing business, government, labor and the military. The group initially focused its efforts on leaders at the executive level. When this "top down" approach turned out to be insufficient, ESGR was broadened.

In an effort to reach out to local employers throughout the nation, ESGR organized committees in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia and a network of employer support volunteers across the nation.

Today, these committees include nearly 2,500 volunteers, including 72 in Maryland. ESGR volunteers include business executives, educators, military personnel, and senior government officials. They conduct employer support programs and have a recognition program for employers who support and encourage service in the reserve components.

In addition, ESGR maintains a nationwide network of volunteer ombudsmen. The ombudsmen, who receive extensive training on USERRA, act as mediators and attempt to resolve military-related conflicts between employers and service members.

The ombudsman program is one of ESGR's more important functions, as studies have found that nearly a third of those leaving the reserve components cited "employment conflict" as a reason.

Communication is key to good employer relations, Hensel said. Guard members need to keep their employers informed.

"A lot of our deployments, we have prior notice," he said. "The Guard and reserve member needs to give that to the employer and that fosters good communication, good relations."

# THE LECTERN

By Chap. (Col.) William Sean Lee, JFHQ Chaplain

Maryland has a history steeped in the tradition of religious freedom for all of its citizens. Since the first settlement at St. Mary's City and the involvement of its inhabitants in the first American civil war waged over the issue of freedom of religious expression, and the inclusion of the basic tenets of religious accommodation for all citizens in the founding of the colony, Maryland has maintained a proud history of protecting the free exercise of religious right for all Marylanders. Each and every citizen can worship freely according to the dictates of their beliefs without fear. A cursory look at the role of religion in current world conflicts can give everyone pause to reflect with thanksgiving for the contribution this

basic human freedom provides toward relative peace and security in America.

Maryland National Guard chaplains continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces generally, and the Maryland National Guard specifically, to ensure the free exercise of religious expression for every member of the Guard. Chaplains are charged with the protection of this basic right of citizenship guaranteed to every citizen-soldier by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Each chaplain in the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, and Maryland Defense Force works to ensure that every member of the Maryland Military Department has the opportunity within the limits of the mission and practicality to

practice their faith while in service to State and Nation. Chaplains perform religious support according to the doctrinal mandate of their denominational endorsing group, but provide support for all members of the Maryland Military Department inclusive of all religious expressions. Whatever their faith expression, every member of the Maryland Military Department can find spiritual comfort, counsel, inspiration and support from chaplains.

From Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the Southwest Border and the Gulf Coast of the United States, and in armories across Maryland, chaplains continue to serve both State and Nation ensuring the religious and spiritual well-being of fellow Citizen-Soldiers in war and peace.

## Dental Students Assemble 'Smile Kits' for Iraqi Children; Maryland Soldiers

By Jeffrey Raymond, University of Maryland Baltimore

The holidays will be a little brighter for members of the Maryland National Guard stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for scores of Iraqi children, thanks to a volunteer faculty member and students at the University of Maryland Dental School.

Dr. Robert Strahl, a volunteer adjunct professor, organized a relief effort called "A Taste of Home" in order to make direct contact with Maryland Soldiers and try to make their lives far from home a little easier. He enlisted help for the project from his professional organization, the Maryland State Dental Association, and the Dental School.

On Nov. 16, several student leaders packed "smile kits" containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, sugar-free candy and greeting cards—written in Arabic—that will be sent to Maryland troops in Iraq to be distributed to local children. The kits are meant to make life a little sweeter for the youngsters, and will also improve the Maryland troops' relations with the Iraqi citizens.

Other boxes containing boxed and canned food, DVDs and a player, magazines and baby wipes—useful for wiping

away the desert sand—are meant for the use of the National Guard's A Co., 2-224 Aviation, which is flying Blackhawk helicopters in Iraq. Others went to U.S. Soldiers in Afghanistan under the command of Brig. Gen. Ed Ballard, UMB's director of public safety. He is a brigadier general in the Maryland National Guard, and since July, has been one of the highest ranking Americans in Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Jeannette Wittman, family program director of the Maryland National Guard, attended the event. Acting University Police Chief Cleveland Barnes also was in attendance, representing Ballard. Procter & Gamble donated boxes of children's toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental floss. Other faculty, staff, and students from the Dental School stopped by to sign cards that will be sent to the troops.

Strahl's project has the mission statement "acts of kindness for Maryland's sons and daughters in harm's way." He registered the project as a charity and runs it with a nonpolitical, nonpartisan tone; he is adamant that the project



Dr. Robert Strahl (left) oversees the assembly of "smile kits" by University of Maryland Baltimore dental students. Photo by Warrant Officer William Fearrington

focuses on supporting the men and women volunteers now serving in combat zones.

*This article appears on the University of Maryland Baltimore website and is reprinted here with permission.*



# “Ready When Called”

By Brig. Gen. (Md.) Frederic N. Smalkin, Senior Advisor to MDDF Commander

With the massive Federal mobilization and overseas deployment of the National Guard in the First and Second World Wars, it became apparent that a back-up military force should stay in the various states to take on the state militia duties that would otherwise not be fulfilled. These State Guards, as they were called, were state troops without Federal reserve status. Many states, including Maryland, had thousands of volunteer State Guardsmen during both wars. These units were generally disbanded after the wars.

The modern version of the State Guard, born during the Cold War, is the State Defense Force (SDF). The Constitution authorizes states to maintain troops only with the consent of Congress, and Congress has consented to maintenance of the National Guard and State Defense Forces. Presently, about half the states have a SDF.

During peacetime, the Cold War, and when there was no local or regional state of emergency, many SDFs lacked a coherent sense of identity and mission. It was unlikely that the National Guard would be subject to federal call-up on the scale of the World Wars, and there seemed to be little use for what amounted to a body of troops redundant to the National Guard.

In Maryland, at the millennium, a handful of key leaders in the Military Department chose to rethink the entire SDF concept, in terms of whether – and, if so, how – the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF) should be restructured. It was concluded that the best and highest use of the MDDF should remain as a “back-up” force for the National Guard, but not just in case of mobilization. That is, why not utilize the Defense Force as a pool of trained, often professionally-qualified, Soldiers who could augment the National Guard in those areas where the Guard had a specific need?

Thus, the “new” MDDF was born, with the key concept being the creation of talent pools, organized into profes-

sional mission-oriented commands, e.g., legal, medical, and chaplain. Highly qualified commanders – most of them former active or reserve officers – were recruited, and they, in turn, recruited other professionals for their commands. Additional commands were organized, as qualified personnel presented themselves.



*Members of the Maryland Defense Force deployed to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina. Photo by Division Chief Michael O'Connell, Anne Arundel County Fire Department.*

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina the MDDF expanded its Medical Command (which had already achieved Medical Reserve Corps recognition), and deployed teams to the New Orleans vicinity, where they treated close to 7,000 patients over a period of three weeks. This out-of-state deployment of the MDDF (as authorized by Maryland statute, but never before utilized) was highly successful, leading to the organization of the Medical Command into the 10th (MD) Medical Regiment.

The question of how best to utilize other non-professionally-qualified Soldiers was solved by abolishing the traditional battalions and reorganizing units into a Military Support Command, the purpose of which is to provide command, control, logistic, and administrative support to MDDF personnel in deployment or other operational environments. Another function of military

support personnel is to serve, after intensive training, in the Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC), alongside civilian and National Guard personnel in both routine and emergency operations.

The theme of fully integrating MDDF personnel into everyday state missions and operations, which is really at the heart of MDDF's post-Cold War mission,

is actively pursued at all levels of the Maryland Military Department. MDDF chaplain personnel are fully trained alongside their Guard counterparts and can perform the same state duties, as they did in Maryland during the Lebanese Repatriation of 2006. MDDF medical personnel are playing integral roles in the Military Department, teamed with Guard medical personnel, in medical missions, ranging from planning for pandemics to deploying with the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Medical Group to Bosnia on a one-month humanitarian medical mission in connection with the Department of Defense State Partnership Program. MDDF engineering personnel will be assisting in engineering assessments of existing Guard facilities

and the design of new ones. On a monthly - and sometimes even weekly - basis, MDDF attorneys, chaplains, and finance officers are tasked with individual counseling of soldiers and their families in cases where National Guard personnel are not available in adequate numbers. And, finally, the MDDF's own cavalry unit (Troop A) performs color guard and parade duties, fulfilling requests from the civilian community for support from the Maryland Military Department.

In sum, we in the MDDF strongly feel that we have, by good planning and good fortune, hit upon a winning formula, assuring that the Defense Force will become and remain an indispensable resource for the State's Military Department, in accordance with its traditions, but with an eye to the future.

# Winter Storm Preparedness

Many of the employees of the Maryland Military Department are classified as "Mission Essential" which means that during an emergency they could be summoned to duty to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Maryland. As we move into the winter season, it is important for all employees, regardless of classification to prepare for the threats posed by winter storms. The MDMILDEP Digest offers the following information to assist in the preparation for such storms.

## Winter Storm Hazards:

*A Winter Storm Watch means that a winter storm is possible for the area. This watch is issued 12 to 36 hours before the event. A Winter Storm Warning means that a Winter Storm is occurring, or will soon occur in your area. A Blizzard Warning means that sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable falling snow, which will reduce visibility to less than a quarter mile, are expected for a period of three hours or longer.*

## BEFORE THE STORM ARRIVES:

Learn about your area's winter storm risk. Contact the American Red Cross, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at [www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us) or the local National Weather Service office to learn more about your area's winter storm risk.

Learn first aid, especially for treatment of exposure to the cold, frostbite and hypothermia.

The most likely direct threat is a loss of electric power and heat that could last for several days. Make sure that stocks of non-perishable food and water are sufficient.

Make sure there is plenty of food and water stored for pets and livestock.

Make sure there is adequate warm clothing for each member of the family.

Understand the effects of wind chill, which combines the cooling effect of wind and cold temperatures on exposed skin.

Fully check and winterize your vehicle before the winter season begins.

Keep your car's fuel tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing.

Service snow removal equipment before winter season.

Make sure your home is properly insulated. If necessary, insulate walls and attic.

Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.

Invest in a NOAA Weather Radio with a tone-alert feature to keep you informed of watches and warnings issued for your area.

Install and check fire alarms.

Consider storing sufficient heating fuel if the possibility exists that regular fuel sources may be cut off in a winter storm. Be cautious of fire hazards when storing any type of fuel.

If you live in a flood-prone area, consider purchasing flood insurance to cover possible flood damage that may occur during the spring thaw.

Install snow fences in rural areas to reduce drifting in roads and paths, which block to homes, barns and animals' feed and water.

## DURING THE STORM

The following information is provided to help citizens get through the storm:

Avoid unnecessary travel. About 70 percent of winter deaths related to ice and snow occur in automobiles.

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, radio or television for updated information about the storm. These devices should be battery-operated or have a battery backup in the event of a power failure.

If you are caught out in your vehicle when the storm hits, stay in your vehicle. You will become quickly disoriented in wind-driven snow and cold. Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. Open the window little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked. Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine, as this will make you more visible to rescuers. After the snow stops falling, raise the hood to indicate that you need help.

## Take the following action to keep your pipes from freezing:

- Wrap the pipes in insulation or layers of old newspapers
- Cover the newspapers with plastic to keep out moisture
- Let faucets drip to keep them from freezing
- Know how to shut off water valves.

## Consider keeping safe emergency heating equipment:

- A fireplace with ample supply of wood
- Small, well-ventilated wood, coal or camp stove with fuel.
- Portable space heater or kerosene heater

*This requires the proper use of fire safeguards and ventilation. Consult the local fire marshal for assistance.*

## Carry a Winter Storm Survival Kit in your vehicle that should include:

- Mobile phone, charger and batteries
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie non-perishable food and water
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- Large empty can to use as emergency toilet as well as tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- Sack of sand or kitty litter for traction
- Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps





### AFTER THE STORM PASSES:

Continue to monitor NOAA Weather Radio, radio or television for official information about the storm and its impact.

If you are caught outside when the storm arrives, find shelter where you can stay warm and dry. If no shelter is available, build a lean-to or windbreak or snow cave for protection from the wind. Build a fire

for warmth and to attract attention. Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Melt snow for drinking water as eating snow will lower your body temperature.

Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

If you go outside after a snowstorm, dress in many layers and wear a hat and gloves or mittens. Many layers of thin clothing are warmer than single layers of thick clothing. Wear a hat to keep the body from losing heat through the head. Mittens are warmer than gloves. Covering the mouth with a scarf protects lungs from extremely cold air.

If in a vehicle, exercise from time to time by moving your arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

Avoid overexertion, and use caution when engaging in activities such as shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car or walking in deep snow. The strain from the cold and hard labor could cause a heart attack.

Sweating could lead to chill or hypothermia. If indoors, wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing and remember to remove layer to avoid overheating, perspiration and subsequent chills.

If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap the pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold or where the cold was most likely to have penetrated. A hand-held hair dryer, used with caution to prevent overheating also will work.

## Army streamlines service uniforms to one blue Army Service Uniform

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 6, 2006) – Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced yesterday.

“World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army’s most honored traditions,” said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

“We have all of these variations of uniforms – green, blue and white,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. “It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that’s what we’ve done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition.”

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army

Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit.

“What we want to do is design the uniform so it’s tailored to the Soldier, so it fits his or her physique better,” said Preston.

The new uniform will also be wrinkle-free.

“One of the materials that’s been selected is a higher quality material than what is in the Army Green Uniform and will maintain its wearability and its looks,” said Schoomaker.

The uniform will also include a gold braid on the trousers for E-5’s and above. Additionally, the service cap will be authorized for wear by NCOs as well as officers.

Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost, officials added.



Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date.

Continued on page 16

# Army streamlines service uniforms to one blue Army Service Uniform

*Continued from page 15*

The consolidation of Army service uniforms is part of a streamlining process. In 2004, the Army reduced the number of battle dress uniforms from three to one when it adopted the Army Combat Uniform in place of the Woodland Green Battle Dress Uniform (winter and summer versions) and the Desert Combat Uniform. That uniform consolidation has been a resounding success in terms of soldier acceptance and reducing the variety of combat uniforms with which they must deal.

Army Blue as a uniform color traces its origins back to the National Blue and was first worn by Soldiers in the Continental Army of 1779.

Preston said the change reflects Soldiers' wants.

"I've talked to Soldiers and asked them what their thoughts were on the Army green, blue and white uniforms," he said. "It was always about 85-90 percent of hands that showed support for the Army blue uniform."

Besides tradition, the Army Service

Uniform reflects utility, simplicity and quality.

- In utility, the blue Army Service Uniform provides a basic set of components that allow Soldiers to dress from the lowest end to the highest end of service uniforms with little variation required.

- In simplicity, the blue Army Service Uniform eliminates the need for numerous sets of green Class A uniforms, service blue uniforms and, for some, Army white mess uniforms (and tunics, for women). Streamlining various service uniforms into one Army Service Uniform reduces the burden on Soldiers in the same manner that the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) did for the field utility uniform.

- In quality, the blue Army Service Uniform is made of a durable material that is suitable for daily use without special care.

Information about the blue Army Service Uniform and its composition is available at [www.army.mil/symbols/uniforms](http://www.army.mil/symbols/uniforms).

## Numbers You Need

**Maryland National Guard Family Readiness Office**  
410-576-6019

**Department of Information Management Help Desk**  
410-702-9600

**Maryland National Guard Chaplain's Office**  
410-576-6124

**Red Cross**  
*Central Maryland Chapter*, Baltimore  
1-888-737-4306  
*Southern Maryland Chapter*, La Plata  
301-934-2066  
*Lower Shore Chapter*, Salisbury  
410-749-5331  
*Frederick County Chapter*, Walkersville  
301-662-5131

**Maryland Poison Control**  
1-800-222-1222

## Websites

**Maryland Government Website**  
[www.maryland.gov](http://www.maryland.gov)

**Maryland Military Department Website**  
[www.mdmildep.org](http://www.mdmildep.org)

**Maryland Emergency Management Agency**  
[www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us)

**Maryland State Employee Central Payroll Bureau**  
[compnet.comp.state.md.us](http://compnet.comp.state.md.us)



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## Digest

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